

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1437

To establish a Southern Border Security Task Force to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials and task forces to protect United States border cities and communities from violence associated with drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international border between the United States and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Southern Border Security Task Force to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials and task forces to protect United States border cities and communities from violence associated with drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international border between the United States and Mexico.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Southern Border Security Task Force Act of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. SOUTHERN BORDER SECURITY TASK FORCE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Homeland Security shall establish a Southern Border Security Task Force (in this Act referred to as the “Task Force”) to coordinate the efforts of Federal, State, and
8 local border and law enforcement officials and task forces
9 to protect United States border cities and communities
10 from violence associated with drug trafficking,
11 gunrunning, illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping
12 along and across the international border between the
13 United States and Mexico.

16 (b) COMPOSITION AND DEPLOYMENT.—

17 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be
18 comprised of personnel from—

19 (A) United States Customs and Border
20 Protection;

21 (B) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

22 (C) the Coast Guard;

23 (D) other Federal agencies, as appropriate;

24 (E) southern border State law enforcement
25 agencies; and
26

1 (F) local law enforcement agencies from
2 affected southern border cities and commu-
3 nities.

4 (2) DEPLOYMENT.—The Secretary of Home-
5 land Security shall deploy the Task Force along the
6 international border between the United States and
7 Mexico in cities and communities most affected by
8 violence, as determined by the Secretary.

9 (c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Homeland Security
10 shall appoint as a Director of the Task Force an individual
11 who is experienced and knowledgeable in law enforcement
12 generally and border security issues specifically.

13 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
14 of the establishment of the Task Force under subsection
15 (a) and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland
16 Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
17 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
19 Senate a report on the effectiveness of the Task Force
20 in reducing the drug trafficking, gunrunning, illegal alien
21 smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the
22 international border between the United States and Mex-
23 ico as measured by crime statistics, including violent
24 deaths, incidents of violence, and drug related arrests.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Home-
3 land Security \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010
4 through 2014—

5 (1) to establish and operate the Task Force, in-
6 cluding to provide for operational, administrative,
7 and technological costs to Federal, State, and local
8 law enforcement agencies participating in the Task
9 Force; and

10 (2) to investigate, apprehend, and prosecute in-
11 dividuals engaged in drug trafficking, gunrunning,
12 illegal alien smuggling, violence, and kidnapping
13 along and across the international border between
14 the United States and Mexico.

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